



Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee

Testimony on SCR 1

Deanna Vietze
Executive Director
Brown County Board of Mental Health & Addiction Services
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Chairman Click, Vice-Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 1. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Brown County Board of Mental Health & Addiction Services. We are statutorily empowered to establish, to the extent resources are available, a community support system that provides prevention, treatment, support, and rehabilitation services for our community.

I am submitting this testimony in support of SCR 1 and the proposal to call for congressional action on illicit fentanyl. This synthetic opioid represents a grave and growing threat to our communities. It is so potent that even minute quantities can be fatal, and it is increasingly being found in counterfeit pills and other illicit substances.

In Brown County, the impact is devastating. Approximately 70% of unintentional overdose deaths in recent years have involved fentanyl. This mirrors statewide trends, where fentanyl and its analogs were involved in over 78% of Ohio's unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2023. These numbers are not just statistics, they represent lives lost, families shattered, and communities struggling to respond. [\[odh.ohio.gov\]](http://odh.ohio.gov)

Unlike traditional narcotics, fentanyl's extreme lethality and ease of concealment make it capable of inflicting mass casualties with minimal resources. The widespread availability of precursor chemicals—often produced abroad—allows traffickers and criminal organizations to exploit this substance as a low-cost, high-impact weapon against civilian populations.

For these reasons, Congress should consider designating illicit fentanyl and its analogs as weapons of mass destruction under federal law. This designation would enable a coordinated, interagency response—leveraging intelligence, homeland security, defense, and public health resources—to address this crisis with the urgency and authority it demands.

We urge you to support SCR 1 and advocate for federal action that reflects the scale and severity of the fentanyl crisis. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting Ohio communities.

85 Banting Drive • Georgetown, Ohio 45121 • (937) 378-3504

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. If you have any questions about any of the information I've shared in this testimony, please contact me via email at dvietze@bcmhas.org or via phone at (937) 378-3504.